

## St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Thank you again for all your generous donations to The Vale Foodbank who were very grateful for our efforts which totaled 214.2kg. Well done everyone!

Last week we celebrated Shwmae day and we have all continued to try really hard to speak Cymraeg as much as possible every day. This includes at lunch time when we are encouraging the children to use the phrase '*Ga i ..... os gwelwch yn dda?*' (Please can I have .....?).

This is then always followed with '*Diolch*' (Thank you). Maybe you could try this at home too. It doesn't matter if you don't know the vocabulary for something – it is the language patterns which we are trying to reinforce. So for example, '*Ga i corn flakes os gwelwch yn dda.*'



Year 5 have now completed their first week of swimming lessons. Mr. Trigg has reported that they are all working really hard to improve their swimming, whether they are beginners or experienced swimmers. The children are really enjoying their sessions too and are looking forward to next week's lessons.



We have renamed the houses and have been redesigning the way we award and celebrate house points and the children have been very excited this week as we have now installed house point accumulators in all classrooms. This is a very tactile and visual way of sharing the successes of the children. I also have special golden star house point tokens which I will be awarding to those children who go 'Above and Beyond'. All of the counters will be added to the central collector in the hall on a weekly basis.

### Anti-racism

Last week Years 5 and 6 had a visit from Show Racism the Red Card who explained how the organisation was founded and how they use high profile football players and other athletes to tackle racism. The children looked at these individual athletes, at what racism is, and the fight to eradicate it from society today. The provider of the workshops told me how impressed she was with our pupils' enthusiasm, respect and compassion and I was very proud to hear this. Yesterday, both classes followed this up by completing an Adobe task about a famous black person who has fought racism and improved the lives of black people such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Jesse Owens.

Today, the whole school have worn red to support 'Show Racism the Red Card'. Whilst these activities are important, we will continue these conversations to encourage children to listen, learn and speak up against racism. We want everyone at St Andrew's to be kind, respectful and non-prejudiced to everyone in society and we know that conversations like this are very important.



October is Black History Month. The national celebration aims to promote and celebrate black contributions to British society and foster an understanding of black history. The children will be learning about many amazing people from history. Again, we as a school don't want this work to be something we only do once in the year so we are currently looking at ways we can fully embed this work into our school's curriculum.

### PTA

Following the PTA AGM, we are pleased to announce that Becky Ford has been elected as chairperson for this year, Jo Ware has been elected as treasurer and Laura Davis remains as secretary. Over the last year the PTA has raised a huge amount of money for the school through a mixture of running events and grant applications. Some of this money has been used to equip the outdoor areas from Nursery to Year 2 with high quality resources aimed at developing the children's independence, physical wellbeing, resilience and problem-solving skills. We welcomed a number of new parents to the PTA and some of their skills have already transformed the SAMs uniform recycling facebook page! We have a large number of preloved uniform items available from this page which raises money for the PTA but also contributes to improving sustainability.

We have already planned a number of activities over the forthcoming year (see dates).

If your employer offers matched funding schemes, please consider applying for that on our behalf – it makes such a difference.

### Parent/Carer Survey

Around this time of year, I ask parents to complete a survey following parents' evening to assist us in our on-going cycle of evaluation and school improvement. Please use the link below. Thank you to those who have already completed the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/LWSUZSHwPR>

We look forward to seeing more of you at Parents' evening next Wednesday. If for whatever reason you have not managed to meet your child's class teacher, please contact the school to arrange a phone call meeting. Please note, this may be after half term.

### Year 3 at St Peter's Church

Mr Mason and Mr Walters are really looking forward to seeing Y3 in church on Sunday for their contribution to the service. We would be grateful if the children could arrive by 10:20am in their school uniform.

In case you missed it in the last newsletter, this link will take you to our new digital prospectus.

<https://www.colorfoto.net/CreativeDesign/St-Andrews-Major/mobile/index.html>

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gen Hallett'.

Gen Hallett  
Headteacher

## DATES (Recently added dates in red)

AUTUMN TERM	
<b>October</b>	
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 3 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 swimming lessons (week 2)
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers Evening in school hall
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<b>HALF TERM</b>

November	
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Trip to St Fagans
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Remembrance Worship in hall (Y6 parents/carers invited)
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 School Ambassadors training at Hebron Hall
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to attend Remembrance service at Dinas Powys Cenotaph
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Coffee Morning at 9am
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Flu Immunisations
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Class Worship (Y5 parents/carers invited)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Reception 2024 Admissions process opens
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Cricket Tournament
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Cricket Tournament

December	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Cricket Tournament
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Y1 – Y6 Advent service at St Peter's (Pupils only)
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Discos
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 1:30pm
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 9:30am Junior Carol Service at St Peter's at 1:30pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	Term ends
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>

SPRING TERM	
<b>January</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term (No INSET day)
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 1 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Film Night (Y3 to Y6)
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Class Worship (Y4 parents/carers invited)

February	
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Coffee Afternoon at 2pm
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>INSET DAY</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>

March	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	St David's Day
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 4 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Class Worship (Y3 parents/carers invited)
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class Worship (Reception parents/carers invited)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Term ends
Mar 25 <sup>th</sup> – Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>

<b>SUMMER TERM</b>	
<b>April</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term (No INSET day)
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Llangrannog Residential
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
<b>Weds 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Film Night (Rec to Y2)</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> April to May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential

<b>May</b>	
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 2 Class Worship (Y2 parents/carers invited)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	SPORTS DAY (Rec to Y2 am / Y3 to Y6 pm)
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Sports Day (Usual session times)
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Class Worship (Y1 parents/carers invited)
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>HALF TERM</b>

<b>June</b>	
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30

<b>July</b>	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Peter's at 10:30
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Show at Parish Hall at approx. 10am
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Term Ends
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2023/2024**

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2023	*Monday 4 Sept 2023	Monday 30 Oct 2023	Friday 3 Nov 2023	Friday 22 Dec 2023	75
Spring 2024	Monday 8 Jan 2024	Monday 12 Feb 2024	Friday 16 Feb 2024	Friday 22 Mar 2024	50
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April 2024	Monday 27 May 2024	Friday 31 May 2024	*Monday 22 July 2024	70
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024/2025**

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2024	*Monday 2 Sept 2024	Monday 28 Oct 2024	Friday 1 Nov 2024	Friday 20 Dec 2024	75
Spring 2025	Monday 6 Jan 2025	Monday 24 Feb 2025	Friday 28 Feb 2025	Friday 11 Apr 2025	65
Summer 2025	Monday 28 April 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	*Monday 21 July 2025	55
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

\*Designated INSET day